REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 15-24 are pending in this application, Claim 12 having been currently amended; and Claims 22-24 having been added. Support for amended Claim 12 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.[1]

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12, 14-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,535; hereinafter "Tatebayashi") in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,237; hereinafter "Chan") and Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi and Chan in view of Schneier (Applied Cryptography Second Edition).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Henning in granting an interview for this case with Applicants' representative on February 18, 2009, during which time the issues in the outstanding Office Action were discussed as substantially summarized hereinafter and also on the Interview Summary sheet. No agreement was reached during the interview pending a formal response to the outstanding Office Action.

In response to the rejection of Claims 12, 14-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Chan, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a general-purpose computer including, inter alia:

> ...a loading mechanism, which is integrally arranged on
> a case of said general-purpose computer, for detachably
> accommodating an external storage card;

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[1] See original Claim 15.

a decoding mechanism configured to decode data read from said external storage card;

a reproduction mechanism configured to reproduce decoded data decoded by said decoding mechanism;

a power controller configured to supply power to said general-purpose computer, wherein said power controller supplies power to said decoding mechanism and said reproduction mechanism even if power of said central processing unit is turned off, and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from said central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in an active state and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from an external storage card control mechanism integrally arranged on said case of said general-purpose computer, without control of a central processing unit, when said general-purpose computer is in an inactive state;

a cross-authentication mechanism configured to cross-authenticate said external storage card through said loading mechanism; and

a control mechanism configured to supply copyrighted data read from said external storage card to said reproducing mechanism upon successful cross-authentication by said cross-authentication mechanism,

wherein said power controller supplies power to said cross-authentication mechanism and said control mechanism even if power of said central processing unit is turned off and when said external storage card has been cross-authenticated with said general-purpose computer, said external storage card control mechanism transfers copyrighted music data to said external storage card even if power of said central processing unit is turned off.

Chan describes a notebook computer that includes a computer subsystem 104, a CD-ROM subsystem 106, an audio interface IC 102, and a first operating mode in which the computer subsystem is energized and operating, relays commands and data between the digital computer bus 128 of the computer subsystem 104 and the CD-ROM drive 138. In a second operating mode in which the computer subsystem 104 is not energized and is inoperative, the audio-interface IC 102 autonomously responds to signals received from the

7

CD-ROM control buttons and transmits commands to the CD-ROM drive 138 which causes the CD-ROM drive 138 to play an audio CD present in the CD-ROM drive 138.[2] However, Chan fails to teach or suggest that "said power controller supplies power to said cross-authentication mechanism and said control mechanism even if power of said central processing unit is turned off and when said external storage card has been cross-authenticated with said general-purpose computer, said *external storage card control mechanism transfers copyrighted music data to said external storage card even if power of said central processing unit is turned off,*" as recited in Applicants' independent Claim 12.

As discussed during the interview, Chan describes a CD-ROM subsystem 106 which can control the reproduction of a CD via an audio-interface 102 when the computer subsystem 104 is in an inactive state. However, Chan is directed to the *control and playing* of a CD-ROM drive when a computer is in an inactive state, but does not describe an external storage card control mechanism which *transfers* music data to an *external storage card* when the power of a CPU is turned off.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 (and all claims dependening thereon) patentably distinguishes over Chan. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Tatebayashi fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Chan.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 12, 14-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Chan be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi and Chan in view of Schneier, Applicants note that Claim 20 is dependent on Claim 12 and is thus believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

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[2] See Chan at column 4, lines 10-20.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that <u>Schneier</u> fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of <u>Tatebayashi</u> and <u>Chan</u>.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 22-24 are added. New Claims 22-24 find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example at page 20, lines 5 to page 21, line 8; and Figures 1, 2, and 6.

Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.[3]

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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[3] See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."

9